

## (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
18 December 2003 (18.12.2003)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
WO 03/104811 A2

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: G01N 33/68, C07K 14/47, C12N 15/00, A01K 67/027

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP03/05910

(22) International Filing Date: 5 June 2003 (05.06.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
02012815.3 10 June 2002 (10.06.2002) EP  
60/386,721 10 June 2002 (10.06.2002) US

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(81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

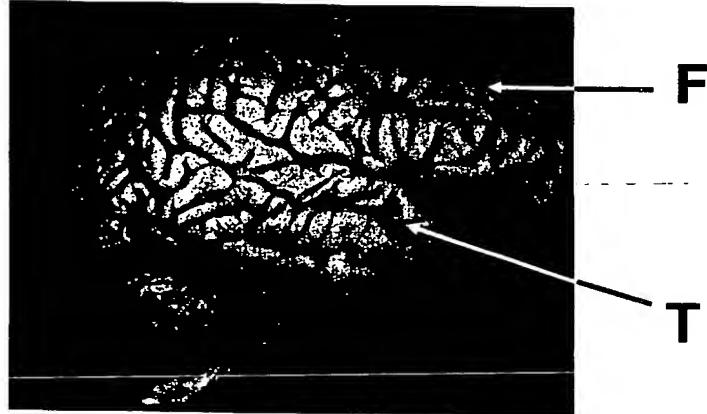
(84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

## Published:

— without international search report and to be republished upon receipt of that report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE OF STEROIDOGENIC ACUTE REGULATORY PROTEIN FOR NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASES

Identification of genes involved in  
Alzheimer's Disease pathology

WO 03/104811 A2

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses the differential expression of the steroidogenic acute regulatory protein (StAR) gene in specific brain regions of Alzheimer's disease patients. Based on this finding, this invention provides a method for diagnosing or prognosticating a neurodegenerative disease, in particular Alzheimer's disease, in a subject, or for determining whether a subject is at increased risk of developing such a disease. Furthermore, this invention provides therapeutic and prophylactic methods for treating or preventing Alzheimer's disease and related neurodegenerative disorders using the StAR gene and gene products. A method of screening for modulating agents of neurodegenerative diseases is also disclosed.

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